Socorro Water System NM 3523728 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2009

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

Is my water safe?

Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 12 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.) This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The City of Socorro is presently using two springs(Socorro and Sedillo) and four wells (South Industrial, School of Mines, Eagle Picher and Evergreen). These sources of water are from the the Sierra Ladron Aquifer. There are five storage tanks (Eagle Picher, N.M. Tech, Evergreen, Reservoir and Grefco) total holding capacity is 2,750,000 gallons.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Susceptibility Analysis of the Socorro water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated and the sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings and system operations and management. The susceptability rank of the entire water system is HIGH.

Although throughout the U. it is common to find potential sources of contamination located atop wellheads, continued regulatory oversight, wellhead protection plans and other planning efforts continue to be the primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water.

Copies of the source water assessment are available from the Socorro Water System. Copies may also be requested from the Drinking Water Bureau by calling Valero Lopez in the NMED/DWB Albuquerque Office at : (505)222-9538 or by emailing him at valero.lopez@state.nm.us. Please include your name, address, telephone number, your e-mail address and the name of the water utility. The NMED DWB may charge a nominal fee for paper copies.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dixie Daniels or Jordan Martinez at the Socorro Water Utilities Office 575-838-1606. We want our valued customers to be informed about their Water Utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held at City Hall on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00pm. City Hall is located off the Plaza at 11 School of Mines Road.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Socorro Water system NM3523728 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. the Socorro Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing conponents. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.75	0.1	0.75	2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	0	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	0	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	51	23	51	2009	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.1	0	0.1	2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	8	2	8	2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.95	0.34	0.95	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.42	0	0.42	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	5.96	0	5.96	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	20	2	20	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.38	NA		2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.2	0	0.2	2008	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Arsenic

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The arsenic in our water is from erosion of natural deposits. The Socorro Water System will continue to post a arsenic public notice every 3 months as long as this MCL exceedence persists. City of Socorro is ready to start construction of two Arsenic Treatment Plants in the early Fall of 2010. Construction will take approximately 12 months, by the Fall of 2011 Arsenic will be removed from the City of Socorro Public Drinking Water System.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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